

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Grand Falls Municipal Council was held in the council room at the Grand Falls Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

Renaud Ouellette
Jacques Lafrance
Jean-Paul Proulx
Arthelin Rossignol
Harry MacPhail

As well as the CAO-Clerk Peter Michaud and the Deputy Clerk, Lise J. Ouellette.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest is mentioned by councillors.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council observes a moment of silence before the start of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Keeley explains that Ron Turcotte was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The presentation will be held at a later date.

Jean-Paul Proulx / Renaud Ouellette,

2016-011 That the agenda is accepted as presented. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Arthelin Rossignol / Harry MacPhail,

2016-012 that the minutes from the January 12th 2016 meeting, which copies were distributed to council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the reading of items discussed during the closed meetings held on January 11, 18 and 25, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	2
Thanks	1
Complaints	1
Request for financial support	0

Request for support (other than financial)	2
Offer of services, land or other	0
Misc. information (GNB, federal, other)	0
Response to a municipal enquiry	1

2015 12 14: Tourism, Heritage and Culture – request to proclaim the New Brunswick Heritage Week from February 8 to 15. Mayor Keeley proceeds with the proclamation.

2016 01 20: Heart and Stroke Foundation – request to proclaim February as Heart Month. Mayor Keeley proceeds with the proclamation.

Harry MacPhail / Renaud Ouellette,

2016-013 that the correspondence is accepted and distributed as requested. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The potable water analyses for January 2016 were received showing « potable water » results.

Jean-Paul Proulx / Arthelin Rossignol,

2016-014 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC – motions and new business

Mayor Keeley explains the proposed motions and New Business and opens the floor to comments. No comments are received.

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

Service agreement with Drummond

Jacques Lafrance / Arthelin Rossignol,

2016-015 That the Grand Falls Town Council authorises the Mayor and Clerk to sign the policing agreement with Drummond. Carried

EAU ET ÉGOUT

The Department repaired two water main breaks: one on Basin Street and one on Broadway.

PLANNING

Construction permits for a value of \$99,969 were given in January.
The Deputy Mayor gives a brief summary of the Land Use Planning Department's annual report.

Amendment to the municipal plan (Bélanger Street) – minister's approval

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

2016-016 That amendment 2015-02 to the municipal plan be submitted to the minister of Environment and Local Government for approval per sections 68 and 69 of the Community Planning Act. Carried

Amendment to the municipal plan (Sénéchal Street) – minister’s approval

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2016-017 That amendment 2015-03 to the municipal plan be submitted to the minister of Environment and Local Government for approval per sections 68 and 69 of the Community Planning Act. Carried

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2015 has been a good year and a surplus is expected in both the general and water funds notwithstanding the difficult winter.

No committee meetings were held recently given the absence of Councillor Long.

Video Surveillance Policy

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2016-018 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts policy 2015-03 entitled « Video surveillance » as presented. Carried

Protection of Personal Information Policy

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2016-019 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts amendment 1 to policy 2014-02 entitled “Protection of Personal Information Policy”. Carried

Garbage collection – tender

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2016-020 That the tender received from Northwest Sanitation Services Ltd., in the amount of \$150,744.40 plus tax, per year, is accepted as received. Carried

Age-Friendly Municipalities

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2016-021 That the Town of Grand Falls commits to the Age-Friendly initiative which aims to improve the well-being of its citizens and to share its experience with other communities. That Grand Falls commits to set up a committee of citizens whose members will be named by the Grand Falls Age-Friendly Committee and be entrusted with the coordination of the initiative. The Committee will be responsible to lead a project culminating in an action plan that will reflect the municipality’s reality in order to improve the quality of life for senior citizens. Carried

Financing request

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2016-022 It is resolved that the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Municipality of Grand Falls debenture in the principal amount of \$507,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and be it resolved that the Municipality of Grand Falls agrees to issue post-dated cheques payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. Carried

Financing request

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2016-023 It is resolved that the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Municipality of Grand Falls debenture in the principal amount of \$136,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and be it resolved that the Municipality of Grand Falls agrees to issue post-dated cheques payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. Carried

GOLF

Thirteen tournaments are planned for 2016 to date.
Jr. golf will change format this year.
More information concerning the 2016 season will be available on the Website shortly.

Council mentions the problems, damages and the danger caused by people using snowmobiles in the cross country ski and snowshoe trails and on the golf course. Snowmobilers are requested to restrict their activities to snowmobile trails.

LIBRARY

A new librarian has been hired.

FIRE

Firefighters responded to three calls in January.

GRAND FALLS CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORP. INC.

The Christmas decorations have been taken down and no vandalism was noted during the holidays.
A pamphlet on the downtown core is being developed.
Thanks to municipal employees for their help with road and sidewalk maintenance.

AFMNB

The mayor's meeting will take place in the near future.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Municipal plan amendment – Bélanger Street

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of amendment 2015-02, by title.

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2016-024 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-02 entitled By-law Amending the Municipal Plan of the Town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried

Zoning amendment –Bélanger Street

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of amendment 2015-03, by title.

Jean-Paul Proulx / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2016-025 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-03 entitled By-law Amending the Zoning By-law of the Town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried

Municipal plan amendment – Sénéchal Street

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of amendment 2015-03, by title.

Harry MacPhail / Renaud Ouellette,

- 2016-026 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-03 entitled By-law Amending the Municipal Plan of the Town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried**

Zoning amendment – Sénéchal Street

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of amendment 2015-04, by title.

Arthelin Rossignol / Jacques Lafrance,

- 2016-027 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-04 entitled By-law Amending the Zoning By-law of the Town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried**

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Harry MacPhail – candidacy

Councillor MacPhail announces his candidacy for the next elections.

Renaud Ouellette - candidacy

The Deputy Mayor announces his candidacy for the next elections.

Mayor's supper

Mayor Keeley informs that the mayor's supper, organised by the Chamber of Commerce, will be held on March 2nd.

Clothing depot

The Mayor was on hand for a regional meeting with Kent Building concerning the possibility of a regional clothing depot.

INTERVENTION BY THE PUBLIC

Marcel Deschênes

Mr. Deschênes objects to public comments describing the E. & P. Sénéchal Center as being a white elephant whose operation has become too costly. He would like the public to be better informed and mentions that the CEPSC budget has never been in deficit since its opening.

Mayor Keeley responds that Council discussed the gap between the CEPSC expenses and revenues during the regional debate on user fees. The Council has been constant in its support for the volunteers and has never commented concerning faulty construction, management or other. User fees exist everywhere and have become necessary in order to avoid tax increases. Council appreciates everyone's contribution to the construction and operation of the facility.

Yvon Levesque

Mr. Levesque strongly objects to the elimination of the prayer at the beginning of the meetings. He believes that the federal government and other municipalities continue to pray.

Mayor Keeley explains the Supreme Court decision that, in the municipal context, the prayer goes against human rights.

Ronald Ouellette – Age-friendly Municipalities

Mr. Ouellette is interested in being part of the committee for the age-friendly initiative. He also mentions his support for Mr. Levesque's comments.

Marcel Deschênes – prayer

Mr. Deschênes also supports Mr. Levesque's comments. He suggests that Council continue with the prayer until someone complains.

Councillors Lafrance and Rossignol request that Council verify what other municipalities do in the region.

MEDIA INTERVENTION

Journalists question the video surveillance policy. They also question the photos on Facebook showing a colored liquid being discharged into the river. The Department of Environment is leading the investigation.

ADJOURNMENT

Arthelin Rossignol /Renaud Ouellette, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk